

## 4. TIMBER HARVEST PLANNING

Timber harvesting includes felling, forwarding, sorting, loading and hauling of timber products. Harvest operations require haul roads, log landings and skid trails to be developed and maintained. Timber harvesting, and other silvicultural treatments such as tree planting, soil scarification, and herbicide application, are vital and integral parts of management of forest resources. The treatments contribute to a healthy and vigorous forest. These practices perpetuate the land use which has the greatest potential for protecting surface water quality.

### Pre-Harvest Planning

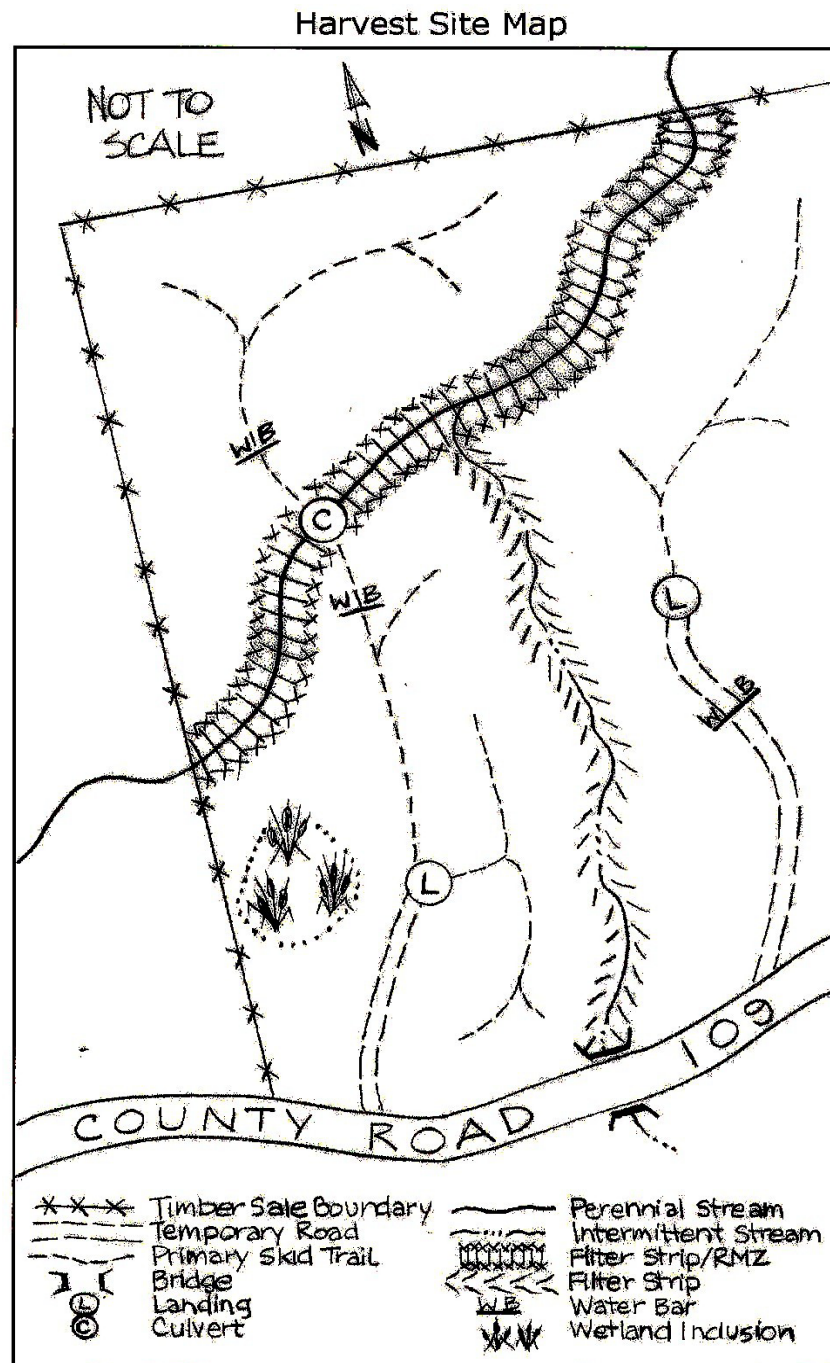
Pre-harvest planning is the collection of information about the area to be harvested and the use of this information to determine the best time and method to harvest while protecting water and site quality. The planning includes deciding where current and new roads and skid trails are located. Consideration should be given to water quality protection measures and appropriate BMPs. Large forest operations may have checklists and timber sale proposal specifications which address these.

Pre-harvest planning helps the logger or forest resource professional in developing a timber sale contract that protects water quality, as well as soil and site productivity. This may include a map (may not be drawn to a specific scale) identifying such concerns as:

- Property boundaries.
- Streams and drainages.
- Soils.
- Slope.
- Approximation of proposed main haul road and skid trail locations.
- Potential log landings.
- Stream crossings.
- Riparian management zone designations.
- Vernal pools or open water wetlands.

Figure 1 is an example of a harvest site map with BMPs mapped out accordingly. Note that this is for an example only. The use of topographical maps may be of use in forested areas having variable and sloping terrain.

A narrative may also be part of the planning in which road and trail specifications, along with amount and size of machinery for harvest and removal of timber products, are identified. Timing of harvest and timber sale contract conditions may be included as well.



**Figure 1. Pre-Harvest Site and BMP Plan Map**